

## Reading List

We asked these participants in Senior High Assembly, "What book are you reading this summer?"

● **Spence Bender**, age 14  
Cokesbury UMC  
Knoxville District  
*The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother*, by James McBride

● **Kendall Fitzgerald**, age 16  
First Galax UMC  
Wytheville District  
*The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, by Mitch Albom

● **Suter Johnson**, age 17  
Mafair UMC  
Kingsport District  
*Sixteen: Stories About That Sweet and Bitter Birthday*, by Megan McCafferty



## Exchange

**OOLTEWAH, Tenn.** – Ooltewah UMC seeks a director of children's ministry. Candidate should have proven competency in volunteer recruitment and development, administration, and leadership. A bachelor's degree plus three years leadership experience in a children's ministry is required. Submit resume to [office@ooltewahumc.org](mailto:office@ooltewahumc.org). ■

**KNOXVILLE, Tenn.** – St. Andrews UMC seeks donations of used hand bells for an emerging ministry in a nearby elementary school. The goal is to start hand bell classes for students. Ten sets of bells are needed. Call the Rev. Harry Rehagen at (865) 689-4033. ■

**CLINTON, Tenn.** – Part-time organist/music director position available at Memorial UMC. Compensation is negotiable, based on training and experience. Call (865) 457-2287 Monday through Thursday during the hours of 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to set up an interview. ■

**WHITE PINE, Tenn.** – First White Pine UMC seeks an organist for Sunday morning services and special occasions. Salary is negotiable. For information, call church office between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at (865) 674-2869 or e-mail [wpmc@hotmail.com](mailto:wpmc@hotmail.com). ■

## Going to the Smokies game? Say hey to R.J.!

If you're going to see the Knoxville Smokies play on Aug. 1, be sure to wave at the umpire. R.J. Thompson is the son of a clergy member and will be officiating when more than 500 church members gather for "Holston Night at the Ballpark" in Kodak, Tenn.

"Yeah, he's been a church brat most all of his life," says R.J.'s mom, the Rev. Cynthia Thompson, minister of education and program at First Broad Street United Methodist Church in Kingsport District.

R.J., age 25, grew up in Brainerd UMC and Wesley Memorial UMC. In June, he transferred his membership to First Broad Street. But he won't be living in Kingsport until September, if at all. As an umpire in the Southern League, Thompson travels half the year between Huntsville, Ala.; Zebulon, N.C.; Chattanooga, Tenn.; and other towns where his AA teams have ballparks.

"During the season, I literally live from hotel to hotel from March to September," he says.

Off season, he attends school or this fall may apply to officiate baseball in Venezuela, Santa Domingo, or Puerto Rico.

His goal is to become an umpire in the major

leagues, says Thompson, who's been calling games professionally for five years. "But it works for us just like it does for the ballplayers." The competition is stiff for the few spots that open up. Thompson will have to beat out 200 other umpires for a vacancy.

On Sunday, Aug. 1, church groups from Holston have tickets to see the Knoxville Smokies play the Chattanooga Lookouts. According to Smokies spokesperson Tom Luebbe, congregations that will be represented include Wright's Chapel, Abingdon, Hiltons, First Newport, First Cleveland and Tuckaleechee UMC.

Thompson will be one of three umpires at the game, and he says he likes it when he gets recognized. "Not a lot of people come out to see the umpires. It's kind of nice to see friendly faces."

The deadline to get group rates for "Holston Night at the Ballpark" was July 19, but groups of 10 or more may still have a chance if they call Luebbe by July 30 at (865) 286-2313. Group rates are \$11 per ticket at field level. The game starts at 5 p.m. and will immediately be followed by a Point of Grace concert. ■

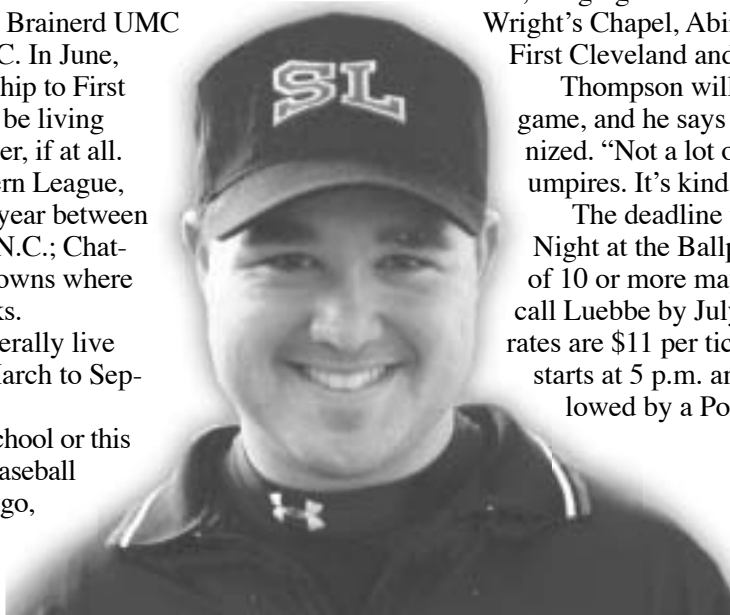


Photo by Steve Bender

R.J. Thompson will be calling 'em out at 1st when church members attend "Holston Night at the Ballpark" on Aug. 1.

## Calendar

### Aug. 6: Peace With Justice meal

**KNOXVILLE, Tenn.** – The Peace With Justice Committee invites Holston church members to a fellowship meal on Friday, Aug. 6, 5:30 p.m. at Tomato Head Restaurant in Knoxville. Following dinner, participants will attend a "Peace Lantern Ceremony" marking Hiroshima Day at Sequoyah Village Cherokee Park. For more information about the fellowship meal or other Hiroshima Day activities throughout the weekend, contact Carol Green, liaison for the Peace With Justice Committee, at [cergreen@charter.net](mailto:cergreen@charter.net).

### Aug. 7: UMW retreat at Roan Mtn.

**ROAN MOUNTAIN, Tenn.** – The Johnson City District United Methodist Women invite other women to an annual retreat at Roan Mountain State Park on Saturday, Aug. 7, beginning at 9 a.m. Featured speaker is the Rev. Rosemary Brown, pastor of Monroe Street and Jordania UMC, Nashville, Tenn. For more information, contact Lynice Broyles, Johnson City District UMW president, at (423) 753-5631 or [lbroyles@comcast.net](mailto:lbroyles@comcast.net).

### Aug. 21: 'Safe Sanctuaries' begins

Holston churches are required to establish child and youth abuse prevention policies by fall 2005. Free "Safe Sanctuaries" workshops will be provided throughout the conference Aug. 21 through Sept. 30. Contact Youth Ministry Coordinator Dan Gray at (423) 928-2156 or Children's Ministry Coordinator Anita Henderlight at (865) 690-4080.

### Aug. 28: Bishop Wilke seminar

**CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.** – "Building Community With Diverse Voices of Biblical Interpretation," a workshop for laity and clergy, will be held Aug. 28 at First-Centenary United Methodist Church in Chattanooga. Bishop Richard Wilke, designer of the "Disciple" Bible study series, will lead the workshop and preach. Sponsored by First-Centenary and the Wesley Institute, the workshop offers 0.3 C.E.U. credit for clergy. Cost is \$30 per person, including lunch. For more information, call (423) 928-2156, e-mail [carylgriffin@holston.org](mailto:carylgriffin@holston.org), or visit <http://holstonconference.com/upcoming.html> to download a brochure. ■

## Numbers

**139** Number of youth attending Senior High Assembly at Emory & Henry College

**41** Number of churches represented

**7** Number of youth dedicating their lives for the first time

**110** Number of youth rededicating their lives

**2.3%** Percentage increase in church payments of Fair Share apportionments from January to June 2004, compared to same period in 2003

**82** Number of churches that have already paid 100 percent of apportionments for 2004

**151** Number of churches that have paid \$0 toward this year's apportionments

# People

By Annette Bender